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## Foreign Affairs, Soviet Union, Human Rights

The Mickey Leland Papers & Collection Addendum. (Texas Southern University, 2015)

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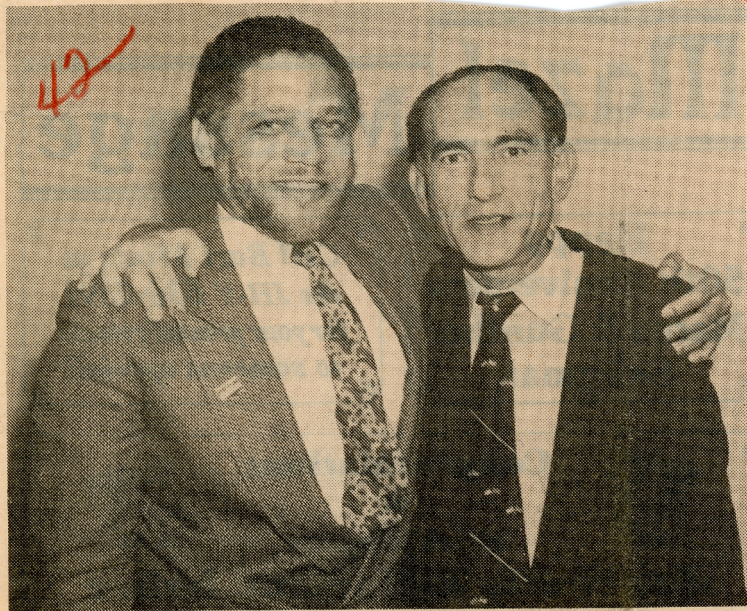
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*Congressman Mickey Leland greets Isai Goldshtein, former refusenik, on his arrival in Washington.*

## **Cong. Mickey Leland holds hearings on disruption of mail to Soviet Union**

Congressman Mickey Leland (D-Tex.), chairman of the Subcommittee on Postal Operations and Services of the House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, conducted a hearing in June that focused on the disruption of mail to the Soviet Union.

Testifying before the subcom-

mittee was Isai Goldshtein, who has been allowed to leave the Soviet Union to live in Israel. In the five years between the time that Goldshtein, a refusenik, and his family applied for permission to leave the Soviet Union and April 1986, when permission to emigrate was granted, Goldshtein be-

came the target of harassment by the Soviet government—including removal from employment at the Mendelovov Metrological Institute, the interception of mail, disconnection of his phone, search of his home and other abuses.

Leland, a member of the advisory board of Houston Action for Soviet Jewry, opened the hearing with these remarks:

"Today's hearing gives us a special opportunity to receive testimony from someone who is uniquely qualified to provide us firsthand information regarding the delivery of mail into the Soviet Union. Isai Goldshtein has recently been allowed to leave the Soviet Union to immigrate to Israel, and his personal struggle illustrates the difficulty that many people experience in their attempt to emigrate from the Soviet Union and how the lack of free flow of information exacerbates the situation.

"Goldshtein's testimony will assist this committee in its continuing efforts to review and monitor the flow of mail between this country and the Soviet Union."